

December 22, 2003

Secretary Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC Docket 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary:

As the oldest police department in the country, the Boston Police Department has a rich history and a well-established presence in the Boston community. We are charged with ensuring the safety of this city's nearly 600,000 residents, as well as workers, tourist and students who double the city's population each day. With such an extremely populated jurisdiction, communications are essential to ensure that we are coordinated, organized and efficient. Therefore, it is extremely troubling to hear of the growing problem of 800 MHz interference that continues to compromise the communications capability for police officers and other first responders. This is a dangerous problem for the state of Massachusetts as well as our country as a whole.

As a member of the public safety community, I applaud the FCC for your commitment to resolving this issue – I now only hope that the solution implemented is one that is comprehensive, adequately funded, and technically proven. Public safety interference is not an issue that we can afford to take lightly.

The Consensus Plan meets the needs of public safety by virtually eliminating interference in a comprehensive and proactive way, as well as providing additional spectrum for future communications requirements. It also is the only proposed solution that is fully funded – a key component for public safety agencies, whose budgets are already overburdened.

Therefore, the Boston Police Department joins the City of Boston, the Greater Boston Police Council, as well as our colleagues from around the state in support of the Consensus Plan. Please make a decision in support of public safety and implement this solution for eliminating interference.

Sincerely,

James M. Hussey
Acting Police Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Michael Powell, Federal Communications Commission Chairman
The Honorable John Kerry, U S Senate
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, U S Senate
The Honorable Michael Capuano, U S House of Representatives